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6. (Amended) A process for oxidising a carbohydrate with an oxidising agent in the presence of a nitrosonium ion as a catalyst, *characterised* in that the nitrosonium ion is produced by the process according to Claim 1.

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8. (Amended) A process according to Claim 1, wherein a carbonyl-containing carbohydrate containing at least 1 cyclic monosaccharide chain group carrying a carbaldehyde group per 25 monosaccharide units and per average molecule is produced.

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9. (Amended) A process according to Claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate is a hydroxyalkylated carbohydrate or a glycoside.

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12. (Amended) A carbohydrate derivative according to Claim 10, in which derivative at least a part of the carbaldehyde groups has been converted to a group with the formula $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-\text{R}$ or $-\text{CH}_2-\text{NHR}$, wherein R is hydrogen, hydroxyl, amino, or a group R^1 , OR^1 or NHR^1 , in which R^1 is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ acyl, a carbohydrate residue, or group coupled with or capable of coupling with a carbohydrate residue.

13. (Amended) A carbohydrate derivative according to Claim 10, in which derivative at least a part of the carbaldehyde groups has been converted to a group with the formula $-\text{CH}(\text{OR}^3)-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{COOR}^2$ or $-\text{CH}(-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{COOR}^2)_2$, in which R^2 is hydrogen, a

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metal cation or an optionally substituted ammonium group, and R^3 is hydrogen or a direct bond to the oxygen atom of a dehydrogenated hydroxyl group of the carbohydrate.

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cont.

14. (Amended) A carbohydrate according to Claim 12, further containing carboxyl and/or carboxymethyl groups.

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Please add the following new claim 15:

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15. (New) A carbohydrate according to Claim 13, further containing carboxyl and/or carboxymethyl groups.